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Article 224

**ELEMENTS: China to impose quotas on rare earth exports. (1 figure)**

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Chemical Business NewsBase

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With effect from Mar 1999, export quotas are expected to be imposed by China on **rare earth** products.

Over 100 products are likely to be affected including cerium products, **rare earth** oxides and fluorides, metal mixed compounds and metal mixtures.

A fall in market **prices** has adversely affected the Chinese **rare earth** industry in 1998, and the quotas are designed to protect domestic producers. 10-20% of rare earths producers have been forced into bankruptcy by the low **prices**, some of which are below the cost of production.

Export sales of the limited quantities of rare earths will go to the highest bidder.

A graph illustrates Chinese **rare earth** exports for 1991-1997.

There was a sharp increase to 1996, with exports levelling out in 1997.

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